



EVI 09680484  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Serial No. .... 09/286,822  
Filing Date ..... 4/05/99  
Inventorship ..... Grate et al.  
Assignee ..... Microsoft Corporation  
Group Art Unit ..... 2152  
Examiner ..... D. Blair  
Attorney's Docket No. .... MS1-305US  
Title: E-Commerce System and Method for Automated Configuration of Trading Relationships

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DEC 20 2002

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.131

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

Technology Center 2100

I am an inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled "E-Commerce System and Method for Automated Configuration of Trading Relationships", as identified above.

I conceived the invention in the United States prior to the September 15, 1998 filing date of U.S. Patent No. 6,219,653 B1 to O'Neill et al (hereinafter, "O'Neill patent").

Attached to this declaration are excerpts from an invention disclosure document that was prepared prior to the September 15, 1998 filing date of the O'Neill patent. This document evidences that the invention was conceived before September 15, 1998, which predates the filing date of the O'Neill patent. Diligence toward reduction to practice is evidenced by the subsequent filing date of the subject application on April 5, 1999.

All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of

1 Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statement may  
2 jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued therefrom.

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4 \* \* \* \* \*

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6 Inventor's Signature

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